

# FROM NEGLECTED SHORELINE TO FLOURISHING WATERFRONT

EPA REGION 10 BROWNFIELDS ASSISTANCE

AK, ID, OR, WA



EPA 910-F-05-004



## Fast Facts:

Region 10 includes Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

**Brownfield:** (broun'feld) n. Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

### Why Cleanup Brownfields?

- It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties:

- increases local tax bases
- facilitates job growth
- utilizes existing infrastructure
- takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land
- improves and protects the environment

### Contact us:

Visit our website at  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>, or  
call the Region 10 office in  
Seattle:  
800-424-4EPA,  
(Local)  
206-553-1200

City waterfronts should be central areas of activity, not contaminated and uninhabitable. Rural waterfronts can often be much better utilized as natural habitats for wildlife or for recreation. The EPA Brownfields Program was founded on the belief that cleaning up properties for reuse invigorates local economies, preserves green space, and prevents sprawl. EPA staff in Region 10 work with federal, state, tribal, public, and private partners to help local decision-makers restore land for a variety of uses. Project leaders find that EPA assistance through the Brownfields program can provide many benefits, including helping **leverage additional sources** for cleanup and redevelopment, **forging public/private partnerships**, and **supporting multi-agency collaboration**.

### *Leveraging Other Sources— Bellingham, Washington*

EPA Brownfields assistance works best when it is the lynchpin that galvanizes other stakeholders and partners into action. In Bellingham, Washington, the city had a thirteen-mile stretch of working waterfront that was dotted with hazardous sites. They needed to get rid of the contaminants that were ruining the marine shoreline. City



*Waterfront boardwalk in  
Bellingham, Washington*



*Constructing a new waterfront in  
Tacoma, Washington*

leaders took an integrated approach that used an EPA assessment grant as a stepping-stone to renew many facets of their waterfront area.

- The EPA grant sent the message to the City Council that this was a project worth investing in. The assessment revealed that the shoreline contaminants were threatening the water source and the native salmon.
- The city and state stepped up with matching grants to restore the salmon habitat and to build a public boardwalk along the restored shoreline.
- Project leaders also used this opportunity to look into changing land use codes to support higher density development. They worked proactively to educate the media and the public, sponsoring a series of 'Growth Forums' designed to demonstrate the benefits of this move in reducing sprawl.

### *Forging Public/Private Partnerships—Tacoma, Washington*

A key element to the success of many Brownfields grantees is their ability to

forge valuable partnerships between the public and private sectors. In the mid 1990's, Tacoma city leaders faced a population where one-fifth was unemployed and nearly half lived below the poverty level. The severe decline of industrial and maritime activities had left the extensive waterfront with serious contamination and meager business. Leaders met the problem head on and used an EPA assessment grant to launch an aggressive campaign to restore Tacoma's enterprise community.

- The EPA grant supported city leaders efforts to create the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) to market and lead redevelopment efforts while eliminating contamination. A Master Redevelopment Plan ensured that the city and the FWDA shared a common vision for redeveloping the waterfront.
- The FWDA board includes leaders from the financial, real estate development, and resource management industries. They seek public input, streamline permit guidelines, and now manage development on the Waterway.
- Marketing the sites has produced innovative and diverse developments. Projects on the waterway include a world-renowned glass museum with a 500-foot glass pedestrian bridge, a mixed-use marina, a maritime center, and loft apartments housed in an old cereal mill.

***Supporting Multi-Agency Collaboration—Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Washington***

Sometimes EPA Brownfields assistance spurs further investment by other

sources. In other cases, project leaders have already launched a multi-agency effort and need a Brownfields grant to address a specific need. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe was already deep into work to restore an estuary habitat that was causing flood hazards and contaminating their shellfish supply, a main staple of their diet. They found EPA Brownfields assistance was an ideal vehicle to help them remove contaminated pilings from the intertidal area of the estuary.

- A twenty partner effort including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clallam County, the USDA and local landowners were helping to restore the estuary, build a new bridge and realign a creek to reduce flooding and protect salmon.
- State funding helped remove other contaminated material and a Brownfields grant facilitated removal of the pilings. All of these efforts assisted the Tribe to move forward with comprehensive restoration of this estuary.
- An emphasis on community involvement and expert technical assistance from the EPA and others made this truly a team effort.



***Creek restoration in Clallam County, Washington***



***Opening day celebration in Bellingham, Washington***

## Grant Funding:

Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of EPA's Brownfields Program. There are four types of competitive grants: assessment grants, cleanup grants, cleanup revolving loan fund grants, and job training grants. In addition to direct Brownfields funding, EPA also provides a variety of assistance. This could include an initial environment assessment of the property, assistance with community involvement, and help with cleanup and redevelopment planning. Past recipients of Brownfields funding include tribes, non-profit organizations, local governments, development agencies, states and coalitions.

For competitive grants, applicants are encouraged to review the guidelines and to participate in one of the grant training opportunities that are held region-wide in the fall. Applications are generally due in November each year.